

Agenda Item #11
January 10, 2003

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Status Review of Implementation of Goals of Strategic Plan
(For Commission Consideration and Possible Action)

The Commission adopted its Strategic Plan in November 2001. Staff reviewed the Strategic Plan and noted the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Commission review and consideration.

The Commission should review the attached memo, and direct staff as to highest priority items with the understanding that the Commission will likely have a slight drop in funds in FY 2003-2004. Commission direction will be used to prepare the work plan for FY 03-04. The work plan for next fiscal year will be reviewed at the May 2003 Commission meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Of the Delta Protection Commission
Adopted November 16, 2000

NOTE: Text in Bold Italic describes status of implementation of the goal in 2002

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Commission is to guide the protection of the Delta's unique natural quality, cultural viability, economic vitality, and recreational opportunity through:

- protection, maintenance, and enhancement and restoration of the overall quality of the Delta environment including agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities;
- assurance of orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources; and
- improvement of flood protection to ensure an increased level of public health and safety.

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision of the Delta Protection Commission is a region in which the essential land uses and unique natural qualities flourish in self-sustaining harmony.

AGENCY GOALS:

- Develop techniques to promote balance between the three Delta land uses:

Step 1: Develop an inventory of existing Delta land uses, and changes in land use since January 1, 1993, including acquisition of land for future land use changes.

Inventory of land uses is being developed as part of the Delta agriculture study by American Farmland Trust. Department of Fish and Game has released a draft inventory of land ownership and land uses developed as part of CALFED's Delta Ecosystem Restoration Plan. Delta Protection Commission's geographic information system (GIS) data base is being updated for 2002 acquisitions.

Step 2: Prepare a composite map of existing and proposed land uses in the Primary Zone with information from the five Delta Counties and evaluate consistency with the vision of the Delta Protection Commission.

See above.

Step 3: Monitor pending projects and prepare monthly memo for Commission and general public to document proposed changes to land use.

Ongoing; updated monthly and posted on web site monthly.

Step 4: Develop guidelines and tools for ensuring that balance between land uses in the Delta is maintained. Balance means that lands can be used for multiple uses, and

that changes in use on one parcel do not adversely affect uses on adjacent or nearby parcels. Balance means that the goals of the Delta Protection Act are carried out in land use decisions in the Primary Zone.

No work on this item--guidelines and tools for ensuring balance would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.

Step 5: Amend the Commission's Plan to include new guidelines and tools and ensure that the local governments incorporate them into their General Plans.

No work on this item--guidelines and tools for ensuring balance would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.

- Facilitating solutions:

Step 1: Meet with the Planning Director of each local government at least once a year to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as upcoming changes in land uses, proposed amendments to the General Plan or zoning code, trends in land use, trends in acquisition, and proposed projects in Primary Zone or that would affect Primary Zone.

Communicated with but did not meet with County Planners.

Step 2: Brief staff of local government planning departments to ensure local government staff understands the responsibilities of the Delta Protection Commission.

No requests.

Step 3: Meet and consult with State and federal agencies with properties and/or responsibilities within and adjacent to the Primary Zone of the Delta to ensure common understanding of the Commission's vision for the region.

No new requests; met regularly with State and federal agencies as part of CALFED.

Step 4: Comment on proposed State and federal projects circulated through the State Clearinghouse to ensure that those Agencies understand the Commission's Land Use Plan and its policies.

Ongoing; comment through the pending projects review and monitoring process.

Step 5: Promote the Commission's vision in State and federal planning programs to help shape the future land uses in the Primary Zone of the Delta and ensure harmony and consistency with the Commission's future vision.

Regularly promote the Commission's vision of the Delta in the CALFED process.

- Development of a strategy for addressing external influences.

Step 1: Form a Legislative Subcommittee to monitor proposed legislation and budget proposals to ensure consistency with the Commission's Mission and Vision.

Legislative Committee active last year; Commission took positions on several bills.

Step 2: Comment on proposed CALFED funding program in the Delta area to ensure consistency with the Commission's Mission, Vision, and Plan.

Commented on CALFED funding of projects in the Delta area.

Step 3: Coordinate with federal, State, local, and non-profit programs to develop priorities for acquisition of agricultural easements in the Primary Zone.

Participated in new CALFED Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee Working Landscapes Subcommittee. Mitigation issues being addressed by staff to this Subcommittee.

Step 4: Identify and develop solutions for Delta land use conflicts that need to be resolved prior to implementation of CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.

No work on this item--solutions for land use conflicts would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.

Plan 5: Develop regional goals and tools evaluating development of recreation facilities and uses in the Delta.

Commission funded preparation of work plan for Delta Recreation Master Plan in 2001; staff seeking funding for preparation of Master Plan.

Plan 6: Coordinate with Reclamation Districts and the Reclamation Board to ensure that new development outside the Delta does not adversely impact the ability of Delta levees to provide appropriate levels of flood protection.

Monitoring and commenting on development projects through the pending projects process. Commission had briefing on new Sacramento River Consortium in November 2002.

- Enhance public information on Commission positions and actions and increase outreach.

Step 1: Provide information about the on-going land use actions and decisions in the Primary Zone of the Delta to the citizens and landowners of the Primary Zone of the Delta to ensure understanding of policy decisions being considered in the region, and to allow the citizens and landowners access to the relevant local government decision-makers.

Ongoing through preparation and distribution of the pending projects memo and through various stakeholder meetings. The pending projects memo is available on the website.

Step 2: Attend local meetings to describe the Commission's mission and vision for the Primary Zone of the Delta, and educate the citizens and landowners about the appeal authority of the Commission.

Attended a few local meetings on projects that would be precedent setting (e.g. Elk Grove General Plan meetings).

Step 3: Carry forward comments and ideas from citizens and landowners of the Primary Zone of the Delta to regional, State and federal planning processes to ensure those views are part of a larger decision-making process.

Ongoing through participation in the CALFED process.

Step 4: Prepare and circulate press releases regarding Commission actions and positions taken on key issues, policies and programs.

Staff prepares and circulates newsletter in odd-numbered months.

Step 5: Prepare and circulate annual report to Governor, Legislature, and general public.

Ongoing requirement of Delta Protection Act of 1992.

Step 6: Provide information on the Commission's web site for access by the general public.

Ongoing; all meeting notices, minutes and staff reports are posted on website.

- Develop more defined standards and policies, and use them in project evaluation.

Step 1: Process the policies in the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta as regulations to ensure that those policies have the effect of law in the appellate process designated to the Commission.

Task completed; regulations approved in 2001.

Step 2: In collaboration with Reclamation Districts, the Department of Water Resources, and CALFED Levee Program, prepare a report on the status of Delta levees, and any identified priority needs for levee maintenance or upgrades.

No action on this item; staff participating on CALFED Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee Delta Levees Subcommittee.

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